

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 19-31, ~~54-66~~, 72, 73, and 75-116 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1-18, 32-53, 67-71, and 74 to read as follows. as follows. A marked-up copy of these claims, showing the changes made thereto, is attached. Please note that all the claims currently pending in this application, including those not presently being amended, have been reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.

1. (Amended) A method of browsing electronically-accessible resources using descriptions of the resources, the descriptions of the resources (i) having descriptor components having attributes representative of access to the resources, (ii) being separate from the resources, and (iii) having links to corresponding electronically-accessible resources, said method comprising the steps of:

reading the descriptions;

displaying items, each item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component of a description read in said reading step that has at least one attribute; and

browsing the descriptions of the resources and their corresponding electronically-accessible resources via the links using the displayed items.

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2. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein each description read in said reading step is represented by a tree of descriptor components, and one or more of the descriptor components have descriptor components as descendants.

3. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 117, wherein one of the axes of access is a table-of-contents classification.

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4. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 117, wherein one of the axes of access is an index classification.

5. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the descriptions of the resources are generated using a description scheme as a template, and the description scheme uses a declarative description definition language which contains definitions for descriptor components of the descriptions of the resources.

6. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components are defined in the description scheme.

7. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components are a persistent item of the description scheme.

8. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components are instantiated by an application when required.

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9. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components are instantiated using a rule that is associated with the description scheme.

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10. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the resources comprise an item of digital content.

11. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the resources comprise an electronic document or resource available over the World Wide Web.

12. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the resources comprise an electronic device.

13. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of the descriptions contains links to identified sections of a resource.

14. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 117, wherein the axes of access are determined by rules operating on the description.

15. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 117, wherein the axes of access are determined during the generation of the description of the resource.

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16. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 117, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components representative of the at least two axes of access are inferred from the content of the description.

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17. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein an attribute of a descriptor component is inferred to be a table of content descriptor if the descriptor component contains a reference to a resource or a section of a resource.

18. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein an attribute of a descriptor component is inferred to be an index descriptor if the descriptor component is not inferred to be a table of contents descriptor.

19-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Amended) A method of annotating an electronically-accessible resource using a description of the resource, the description of the resource being a separate from the resource and having descriptor components each of which comprises a name of a feature of the resource and an associated representative value for that feature, one or more of the descriptor components including a table of contents attribute and one or more of the descriptor components including an index attribute, said method comprising the steps of:

reading one or more descriptions;

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displaying a table of contents containing table of contents items, each table of contents item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component that has a table of contents attribute;

selecting one displayed table of contents item for the annotation;

displaying an index containing index items, each displayed index item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component that has an index attribute and is associated with the selected table of contents item;

selecting one displayed index item;

associating the selected displayed index item with the selected table of contents item;

choosing a representative value for the selected index item; and

associating the chosen representative value with the feature which corresponds to the selected index item,

wherein the chosen representative value and its corresponding feature provide an annotation of the resource.

33. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 32, wherein each description read in said reading step is represented by a tree of descriptor components, and one or more of the descriptor components have descriptor components as descendants.

34. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 32, wherein said step of associating the selected display index item is allowed only if the corresponding descriptor

of the selected display index item is a valid descriptor for the table of contents item selected for annotation.

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35. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 32, wherein said step of choosing a representative value is predetermined.

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36. (Amended) An apparatus for browsing electronically-accessible resources using descriptions of the resources, the descriptions of the resources (i) having descriptor components having attributes representative of access to the resources, (ii) being separate from the resources, and (iii) having links to corresponding electronically-accessible resources, said apparatus comprising:

means for reading the descriptions;

means for displaying items, each item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component of a description read by said reading means that has at least one attribute; and

means for browsing the descriptions of the resources and their corresponding electronically-accessible resources via the links using the displayed items.

37. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein said means for reading the descriptions represents each description by a tree of descriptor components, and one or more of the descriptor components have descriptor components as descendants.

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38. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 118, wherein one of the axes of access is a table-of-contents classification.

39. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 118, wherein one of the axes of access is an index classification.

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40. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein the descriptions of the resources are provided using a description scheme as a template, and the description scheme uses a declarative description definition language which contains definitions for descriptor components of the descriptions of the resources.

41. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 40, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components are defined in the description scheme.

42. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 40, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components are persistent items of the description scheme.

43. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 40, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components are instantiated by an application when required.

44. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 43, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components are instantiated using a rule that is associated with the description scheme.

45. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein the resources comprise an item of digital content.

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46. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein the resources comprise an electronic document or resource available over the World Wide Web.

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47. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein the resources comprise an electronic device.

48. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein each of the descriptions contains links to identified sections of the resource.

49. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 118, wherein the axes of access are determined by rules operating on the description.

50. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 118, wherein the axes of access are determined during the generation of the description of the resource.

51. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 118, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components representative of the at least two axes of access are inferred from the content of the description.

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52. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 51, wherein an attribute of a descriptor component is inferred to be a table of content descriptor if the descriptor component contains a reference to a resources or a section of a resource.

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53. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 52, wherein an attribute of a descriptor component is inferred to be an index descriptor if the descriptor component is not inferred to be a table of contents descriptor.

54-66. (Cancelled)

67. (Amended) An apparatus for annotating an electronically-accessible resource using a description of the resource, the description of the resource being separate from the resource and having descriptor components each of which comprises a name of a feature of the resource and an associated representative value for that feature, one or more of the descriptor components includes a table of contents attribute and one or more of the descriptor components including an index attribute, said apparatus comprising:

means for reading one or more descriptions;

means for displaying a table of contents containing table of contents items, each table of contents item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component that has a table of contents attribute;

means for selecting one displayed table of contents item for the annotation;

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means for displaying an index containing index items, each displayed index item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component that has an index attribute and is associated with the selected table of contents item;

means for selecting one displayed index item;

means for associating the selected displayed index item with the selected table of contents item;

means for choosing the representative value for the selected index item; and

means for associating the chosen representative value with the feature which corresponds to the selected index item,

wherein the chosen representative value and its corresponding feature provide an annotation of the resource

68. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 67, wherein said reading means represents each description by a tree of descriptor components, and one or more of the descriptor components have descriptor components as descendants.

69. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 67, wherein operation of said associating means is allowed only if the corresponding descriptor of the selected display index item is a valid descriptor for the table of contents item selected for annotation.

70. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 67, wherein operation of said means for selecting one said table of contents item is optional and if not performed

said means for displaying an index displays all index items associated with all table of contents items.

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71. (Amended) A computer readable medium comprising a computer program for browsing electronically-accessible resources using descriptions of the resources, the descriptions of the resources (i) having descriptor components having attributes representative of access to the resources, (ii) being separate from the resources, and (iii) having links to corresponding electronically-accessible resources, said computer program comprising:

code for reading the descriptions;

code for displaying items, each item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component of a description read by said reading code that has at least one attribute; and

code for browsing the descriptions of the resources and their corresponding electronically-accessible resources via the links using the displayed items.

72-73. (Cancelled)

74. (Amended) A computer readable medium comprising a computer program for annotating an electronically-accessible resource using a description of the resource, the description of the resource being separate from the resource and having descriptor components each of which comprises a name of a feature of the resource and an associated representative value for that feature, one or more of the descriptor components

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includes a table of contents attribute and one or more of the descriptor components including an index attribute, said computer program comprising:

code for reading one or more descriptions;

code for displaying a table of contents containing table of contents items, each table of contents item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component that has a table of contents attribute;

code for selecting one displayed table of contents item for the annotation;

code for displaying an index containing index items, each displayed index item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component that has an index attribute and is associated with the selected table of contents item;

code for selecting one displayed index item;

code for associating the selected displayed index item with the selected table of contents item;

code for choosing the representative value for the selected index item; and

code for associating the chosen representative value with the feature which corresponds to the selected index item,

wherein the chosen representative value and its corresponding feature provide an annotation of the resource.

75-116. (Cancelled)